

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD



Report to the Ratepayer - Spring 2026

Message from the Chair

As the days grow longer and work picks up across farms and ranches throughout the Special Areas, thank you for taking a moment to read this year's ratepayer newsletter. Inside, you'll find updates on the priorities, projects, and programs guiding Special Areas in the year ahead.

The Board provides reliable municipal services and manages our land and water with care. We work with integrity and accountability, focused on serving the people who call this remote, rural region home. By collaborating with urban neighbours and local partners, making open and transparent decisions, and planning ahead, we're helping create resourceful and resilient communities. Together, we are laying the foundation for a strong and lasting future across the region.

This year, we are putting a greater focus on understanding how our operations are meeting the needs of residents. Administration is working closely with Advisory Council and the Board to make sure service standards and program expectations are clear and communicated to you. We will continue looking for ways to improve services and ensure our efforts contribute to the well-being of the region. We recognize the importance of using the resources entrusted to us in a cost-effective, sustainable, and impactful way.

Healthcare remains a major focus. Challenges in ensuring responsive local care continue to grow, and we're working with local medical clinic boards to support recruitment, retention, and new approaches. Ongoing investments include the 14-bed dementia and assisted living facility in Oyen, as well as new clinic buildings in Consort and Oyen. We'll keep pushing for practical solutions that make a real difference in all levels of local healthcare delivery.

Your feedback helps shape our work. Our second Resident Satisfaction Survey is a great way to tell us what's working, where we can improve, and what we should focus on next. You can also share your thoughts at annual Ratepayer Meetings this May and June. Hosted by your Advisory Council members, these meetings offer a chance to learn more about our progress and future plans.

I welcome your ideas as we continue building on our region's tradition of stability, excellence, and innovation.


Shaune Kovitch, Chair

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Cover photo:
"Spring" by Kayla Dedora

Special Area No.2 District Office	(403) 854 - 5625	212 - 2nd Ave. W, Box 820, Hanna, AB T0J 1P0
Special Area No.3 District Office	(403) 664 - 3618	319 Main St., Box 30, Oyen, AB T0J 2J0
Special Area No.4 District Office	(403) 577 - 3523	4916 - 50th St., Box 220, Consort, AB T0C 1B0



2026 ANNUAL RATEPAYER MEETINGS

SUBDIVISION (SD)	LOCATION	DATE/TIME	ADVISORY COUNCIL
SA2 - SD 7 & 8	BUFFALO HALL	MAY 27 @ 1:30 PM	DARYL SWENSON, BRAD OSADCZUK
SA4 - SD 1, 2 & 3	CONSORT GEM CENTRE	JUNE 18 @ 1:30 PM	GORDON LONG, LAURIE FERENCE, DOUG NOBLE
SA2 - SD 2	HOMESTEAD COULEE HALL	JUNE 24 @ 1:30 PM	ROD MOENCH
SA3 - SD 4, 5 & 6	CEREAL CJ PEACOCK CENTRE	JUNE 25 @ 1:30 PM	ERIKA TESSIER, JOHN KIMBER, KEVIN WILSON
SA2 - SD 3 & 4	POLLOCKVILLE HARDGRASS HUB	JUNE 29 @ 1:30 PM	BRAD SLORSTAD, JUSTIN GRIFFITH
SA2 - SD 1 & 5	HANNA LEGION HALL	JUNE 30 @ 1:30 PM	KEVIN BOSSERT, MARK BLAIR

2025 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2025, Special Areas adopted a capital-focused budget that planned to draw down the accumulated operating surplus by \$9.1 million. This budget supported several major projects, including regional healthcare initiatives, the waterline expansion to Compeer, the 14-bed dementia and assisted living project in Oyen, and the completion of the Sheerness Industrial Park and Reservoir projects.

During the year, assessment from renewable energy projects significantly increased linear assessment. As a result, tax revenues were \$10 million higher than originally budgeted. In addition, 2025 marked the first full year of the 2023 Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy (TRLS IV), which generated higher-than-expected revenues. At the same time, actual spending came in below budget due to cost savings across all areas of operations. This surplus allowed the Board to transfer funds into dedicated reserves to address obligations from the 1998 Tax Recovery Land Sales (TRLS II).

To continue recognizing the financial challenges facing towns and villages in the region, the Board maintained the Industrial Tax Transfer program at \$2 million. This program helps urban communities in the region provide the key services and amenities rural residents rely on.

2025 REVENUES

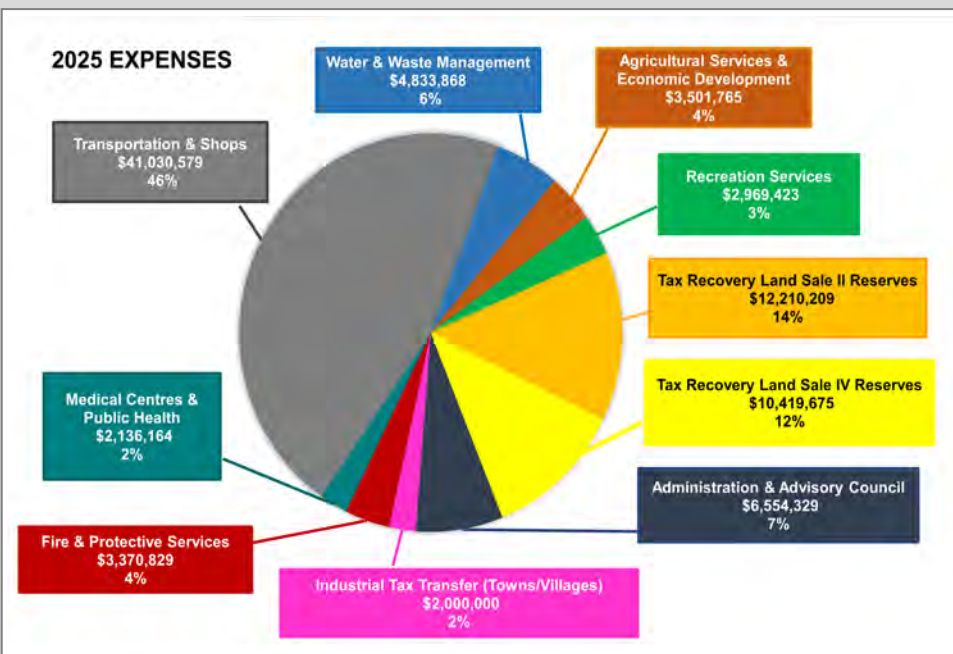
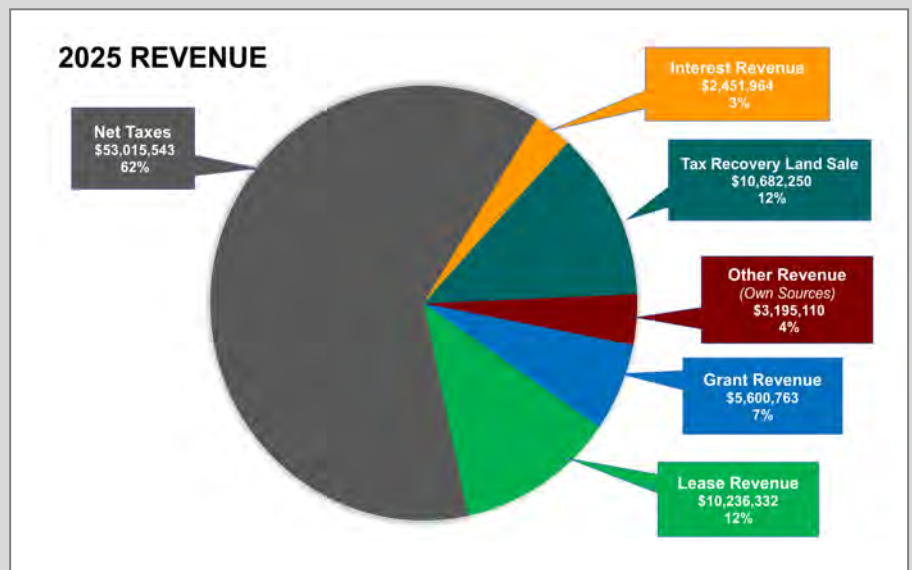
Total Revenues - \$ 85.2M

Actual revenue was \$13.2M higher or 18% more than the original budgeted amount.

Revenues from taxes were \$10M more than budget due to increased assessment from renewable energy projects.

Greater than expected sales for the 2023 TRLS resulted in \$4M above budget, contributing to higher overall revenues.

With increased reclamation and shut-in activity in mineral surface leases (MSLs), related lease revenues decreased. This trend is expected to continue into the future.



2025 EXPENSES

Total Expenses - \$ 89.0M

Actual expenses were \$7.8M more or 10% greater than the original budgeted amount.

Investments into regional healthcare included recruitment and retention initiatives and advancing funds for a new clinic building in Oyen.

Funding to support community facilities and recreation programs in the region was an ongoing focus in 2025, including capital contributions.

Significant partnership projects wrapped up including Phase 2 of the MD Acadia & Special Areas Joint Irrigation project, and the Sheerness Industrial Park & Reservoir projects.

2026 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Special Areas funds its operations through property taxes, public land leases, and other revenue sources such as grants. As part of the budget process, Advisory Council identifies long-term capital, operational, and strategic priorities and recommends them to the Board. The Board uses this input to guide Administration in preparing the proposed budget. The Board reviews the proposed budget, then it is presented to Advisory Council at the fall meeting. After review and discussion, Advisory Council finalizes the budget and returns it to the Board for final recommendation. Throughout this process, Special Areas focuses on making sure the budget meets ratepayer needs, remains affordable, and supports long-term financial sustainability.

For 2026, the Board has planned a \$2.3 million deficit. This will be funded from the accumulated operational surplus, which stood at \$20.9 million as of December 31, 2025. Even with this planned drawdown, the Board remains in a strong financial position with sufficient resources to support current operations and future capital needs.

2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Completion of regional potable waterline to Compeer (SMRWSC).
- Advancement of engineering and design for local potable waterlines to support future cost-sharing & grant opportunities.
- Partnering with local medical boards on key initiatives & projects:
 - Local recruitment and retention initiatives for healthcare workers
 - Completion of the new medical clinic in Oyen
 - Renovation of future Consort medical clinic facility (CCR building)
 - Continued support for the Nurse Practitioner program in Special Area No. 4

	2026 Budget*	2025 Actual*	2025 Budget*
Total Revenues	\$94.0M	\$85.2M	\$72.0M
Total Expenses	\$96.3M	\$89.0M	\$81.1M
Total (Deficit)	(\$2.3M)	(\$3.8M)	(\$9.1M)

*Calculated using a modified cash basis

TAX RECOVERY LAND SALES

A Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS) allows eligible Special Areas agricultural disposition holders with leased lands to change tax recovery land into deeded land at a cost set out in the sale policy. Under the 2023 policy (TRLS IV) policy, certain lands may be withheld, or subject to restrictive agreements (breaking restriction).

Reserve Fund	Balance as of December 31, 2025	Balance as of December 31, 2024
TRLS I (1981)	\$ 39,237,047	\$ 39,237,047
TRLS II (1988)	\$ 12,210,209	\$ 0
TRLS III (2004)	\$ 15,755,056	\$ 15,755,056
TRLS IV (2023)	\$ 13,298,715	\$ 2,879,040

Revenues generated by tax recovery land sales are put into dedicated reserves. These reserves are used to specifically recognize these proceeds.

In 2025, the Board replenished the TRLS II (1988) reserve fund to fully reflect the original value of sale proceeds; these funds had been used to fund operations in the mid 2000s.

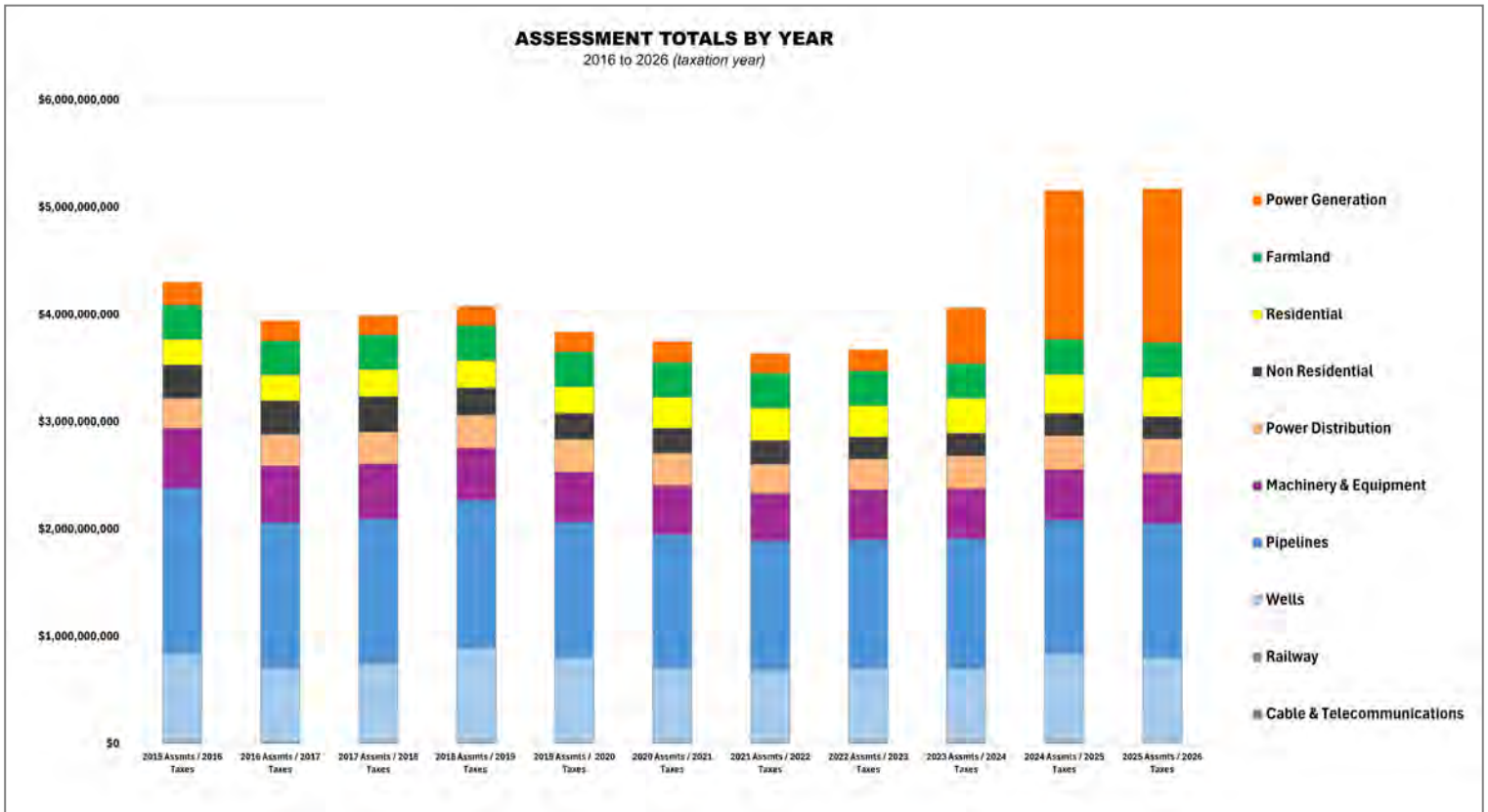
Reserves are used to support the long-term financial stability of the Special Areas Board. Special Areas invests some of these reserves to help protect the long-term value of these funds and earn income.

TRENDS IN ASSESSMENT

Property assessment sets the dollar value of a property for taxation purposes. Under the *Municipal Government Act*, a property can be a parcel of land, an improvement (such as a building), or land with improvements.

Assessors calculate property values using either a market value or a regulated value approach. In the Special Areas, the regulated value approach is most commonly used. This includes farmland and designated industrial properties such as wells, pipelines, power generation facilities, and other linear properties. The Province sets the assessment values for these regulated properties each year.

Renewable energy projects have continued to increase Special Areas overall assessment base. While total assessment has remained at approximately \$5 billion, it is unclear whether renewable projects will continue to drive assessment growth in future years.



UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LAND OWNERSHIP

The information used to create annual tax and assessment notices is provided to Special Areas Board from the Province through the Land Titles Office.

If you notice the owner information or mailing address on your tax and assessment notice is not correct, you need to contact Land Titles Office with the Government of Alberta to update this information. **Special Areas is not able to make these changes on your behalf.**

Some common reasons to update your information with land titles include:

- Transfer of land (when the ownership of a property changes)
- Removing a deceased joint tenant, tenant-in-common, or sole owner (when someone passes away)
- Change of name (general name change / marital name change) and change of address



Learn more at <https://www.alberta.ca/land-titles-overview>.

Scan to learn more

2026 AGRICULTURAL RATES

The Special Areas Board manages more than 2.5 million acres of public lands within our boundaries, including both municipal tax recovery lands and provincial Crown lands. These lands are currently occupied and administered under the *Special Areas Act*, supporting a range of uses from agricultural to industrial to community pastures. To learn more about property administration, public lands, rental or lease rates, please contact your local District Office or visit our [Public Lands page](http://www.specialareas.ab.ca) at www.specialareas.ab.ca.

As the public land manager, Special Areas is committed to the responsible, long-term management of land and water resources while supporting a wide range of economic and community opportunities. Our policies protect sensitive ecological areas and help maintain the strength and sustainability of agricultural operations in the region.

Most public lands in the Special Areas are managed through agricultural leases, including both grazing and cultivation. Approximately 90% of these leases are grazing and 10% support cultivation. Lease rates are reviewed each year, with proposed rates recommended by Advisory Council and the Board, and then approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Grazing lease rates are calculated using a formula that incorporates average market prices, average weight gain, and forage values to determine the annual per-acre rental rate.

For 2026, the annual rental rate per animal unit has been set at \$120.39, representing a 41% increase from 2025. This change reflects the continued strength of cattle prices, which drive the average market prices used in the rate formula.

Alberta cattle prices increased rapidly in 2025 and into 2026 as supplies tightened. Feedlots and packers competed for fewer available animals and retail beef demand remained strong, all of which pushed provincial calf, feeder, and fed cattle prices to historic highs. The most measurable increase could be seen in 500 - 600 lb steer calves, which rose 43% between January and October 2025, making Alberta one of the strongest cattle markets in North America during that period. This strength in market pricing directly impacted the grazing lease rental rate formula.

Cultivation lease rates are determined using assessed land values and an assessment factor, which adjusts based on private land rental trends. **For 2026, the cultivation rate remains unchanged with the assessment factor staying at 0.075.**

The Board also manages more than 172,000 acres of community pastures which provide supplemental grazing opportunities across the region. These pastures support over 7,200 cow-calf pairs each season, though allotments may vary in response to drought, water shortages, or other environmental pressures. Allotment levels are set annually by the Special Areas Board based on recommendations from allotment committees and aligned with the *Special Areas Disposition Regulation* and *Community Pasture Policy*.

Special Areas continues to work toward cost recovery for community pastures through incremental rate adjustments. **For 2026, pasture rates are set at \$1.15/head/day, an increase of \$0.05, with calf rates held at \$8/calf/season.**

The Buffalo Atlee Grazing Cooperative entered into a three-year operational agreement with Special Areas to manage the Buffalo Atlee Community Pasture on a trial basis. This pilot, initiated through direction from Advisory Council, protects the long-term sustainability of public lands while maintaining fair rental rates for public assets and forage. The Buffalo Atlee Grazing Cooperative will use the existing Special Areas Community Pasture Policy as the foundation for its management approach. Special Areas Administration will continue to inspect the pasture and determine annual overall allotment.

For more information about the Buffalo Atlee Grazing Cooperative, please contact Dustin Aebly at (403) 793-0958 or aeblyranch@gmail.com.

2026 RATES	
Grazing Lease Rental Rate	\$120.39 per animal unit
Cultivation Lease Rate	Assessment x 0.075
Community Pasture Rate	Cattle - \$1.15/head / day Calves - \$8.00/calf / season



MUNICIPAL SERVICES

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Roads & Transportation Services

In 2025, Special Areas crews completed 27.2 kms of road surfacing, 13.1 kms of road construction, 19.3 kms of road recrowning, and critical backtrail repairs. Over 810 kms of local roads were graveled.

Major surfacing projects included the Jenner to Iddesleigh Road, as well as partnering with the Town of Hanna on the Hanna Municipal Road. Work at Sheerness Industrial Park and Reservoir was completed with Special Areas forces through a partnership with Prairies Economic Development Canada.

Fire & Enforcement Services

Special Areas fire departments responded to 171 calls in 2025, an increase from 2024. There was an increase in Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) calls, with fires and medical calls also being a big percentage of calls. Regional training continued to be a priority, including hosting local training (NFPA 1001 Level 2) to help firefighters in the region increase training certifications.

In 2025 we continued to see heavy traffic on local roads from large industrial projects; however, the move to an electronic ticketing system has streamlined processes. Over 9,200 over-dimensional permits were issued in 2025, a 10% decline in activity compared to 2024.

Municipal Parks

The Parks Department completed several key projects in 2025, improving operations, visitor services, and environmental stewardship across the Special Areas.

In June, the department partnered with the Agricultural Service Board and CARA to host a Shelterbelt Workshop at Prairie Oasis Park. Tree specialist, Toso Bozic, taught tree identification and proper planting practices; the event included the launch of new tree signage in the park.

Environmental efforts continued in September with the first Walleye stocking at Blood Indian Reservoir. Students from Cessford and Youngstown Schools joined community members to welcome the fish, marking progress in improving the reservoir's fishery.

Annual visitor surveys for our campgrounds and parks provided important feedback on camper experiences, helping guide future planning and ensuring services meet visitor needs.

2026 PROJECTS

FIRE & ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS

- Radio systems moving to Alberta First Responders Radio Communications (AFFRCS)

PARKS & RECREATION PROJECTS

- **Prairie Oasis Park** - marina boardwalk, docks, push showers, concession upgrades
- **Blood Indian Park** - playground updates, push showers
- **Gooseberry & Little Fish Lake Provincial Parks** - operating partnerships

FACILITIES & SHOPS PROJECTS

- Communication / internet towers upgrades, inspections, and regulatory repairs

WATER PROJECTS

- Detailed design & engineering to support expansion of potable waterlines (rural)
- Water station upgrades / construction resulting from regional waterline extension to Compeer (SMRWSC)

HAMLET SERVICES

- Annual hamlet clean-up program

Facilities

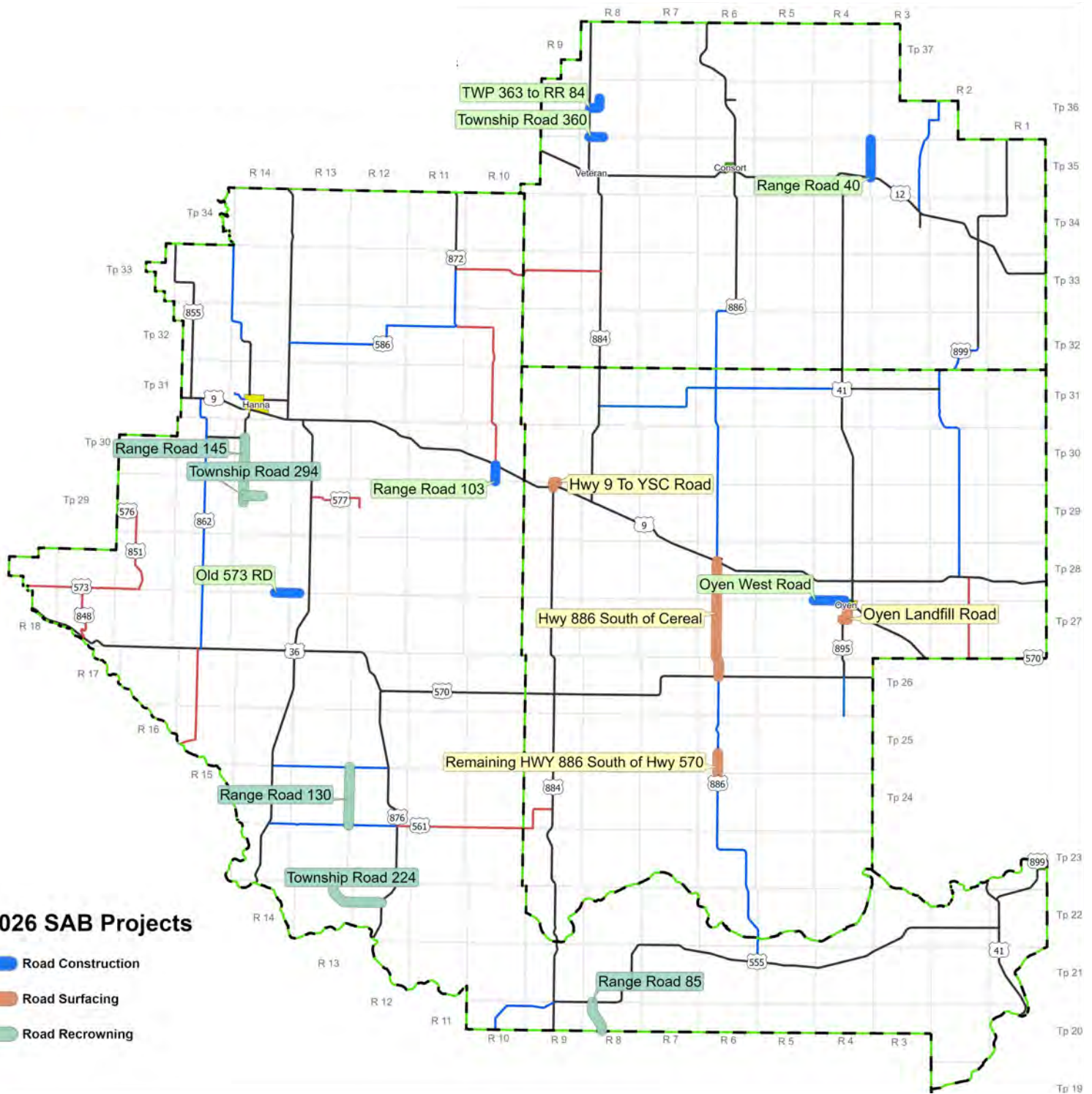
Work focused on preventative maintenance and a number of larger projects including the completion of the Cessford fire hall & shop, structural upgrades at the Hanna west shop, fire system replacement in Youngstown, and expansion of the Highway 570 truck fill. A highlight of the year was the refurbishment of the Dorothy Elevator, revitalizing this iconic structure. The facilities team continued managing the dam safety program for Special Areas owned dams, including development of a 10-year budget and work plan.

Water/Waste Water

The department's five certified operators and plumber supported the safe delivery of water and wastewater services. Major projects included completing the water plant in Scotfield, expanding water storage at Highway 570, and installing a waterline at the Sheerness Industrial Park.

Public engagement on expanding some of the existing potable water systems in the region was completed in May. Feedback from these meetings was shared with Advisory Council in December.

2026 ROAD PROGRAM



2026 SAB Projects

- Road Construction
- Road Surfacing
- Road Recrowning

2026 SURFACING

- Hwy 9 to Youngstown (GBC/DSC) - 1.0 km
- Hwy 886 - Twp 25-2 to 25-0 (GBC/DSC) - 3.2 km
- Hwy 886 - Hwy 9 to Hwy 570 (GBC/DSC) - 19.5 km
- Oyen Landfill Road (GBC/DSC) - 3.0 km

2026 CONSTRUCTION

- 21 kms of construction including:
- Oyen West (Twp 28-0) from Jct. 895 to R.R. 5-0
 - Local Roads: Basin Lake Road, Bye Road, Eamers / Vetter Road, Plover Lake Road.
 - Sheerness Industrial Park Access Road (Twp 28-0 from Hwy 36)

2026 RECROWNING

Approximately 38 kms of recrowning work is planned.

Road recrowning restores a road to the previously built design standard (crown/width) at a much lower cost than full road construction.

Twp 22-4 project includes recrowning with milled in MG30 to help stabilize the road structure.

THE PATH TO PAVEMENT

In the late 1990s, ownership of three-digit (secondary) highways reverted back to the Province from local municipalities. The maintenance and capital programs for these highways were managed by the Province, usually through private contracts. Oiled surfaces (not pavement but not gravel) seemed likely to go back to gravel; there appeared to be no long-term plan to pave any three-digit highways which were not already surfaced.

In response, the Special Areas Board proposed an innovative long-term approach to road surfacing called the **Staged Surfacing Strategy**. This unique approach allowed Special Areas to build surfaces at lower cost over time using a staged or phased approach. The main goal was to increase the kilometers of dust free road surfaces by phasing the work to build structural strength (layers) over time.

The Staged Surfacing Strategy included three layers of road surface: a base of Cement Stabilized Grade (CSG), a second layer of Gravel Base Course (GBC), and a final layer of Asphalt Concrete Pavement (ACP). After each layer of CSG and GBC was laid, a protective surface of Double Chip Seal (DCS) was then placed on top. Each layer was designed to last between 6 and 8 years, depending on road condition, use, and other variables.



Staged surfacing work was funded in part through maintenance agreements with Alberta Transportation. These agreements allowed Special Areas to complete projects on the Province's three-digit highways, with work being cost-shared. In addition to three-digit highways, Special Areas also completed staged surfacing work on local roads. Local road work was not cost-shared with the Province, and was based on priorities set by road committees as outlined in annual road programs.

Since the Staged Surfacing Strategy first began, over \$100M has been spent to surface over 500 kilometers of roads in the Special Areas. That includes over 340 kilometers of three-digit highways and more than 170 kilometers of local roads. At this time, the **Asphalt Concrete Pavement phase is expected to cost ~\$110M over the next ten years, with a portion of these costs shared by the Province.** To help decrease project risks, we are planning to use contracted services, lower costs by executing one continuous (large) paving project a year, and alternate between three-digit highway and local road projects.

Task #	Description of work
1	Analysis of current roads / project planning based on road surface age & condition.
2	Review planned project & availability of materials
3	Determine lowest cost aggregate source
4	Exploration, permitting, approvals
5	Field work & testing
6	Engineering, design & cost-estimates
7	Execute contribution agreement (<i>only for the secondary highway projects</i>)
8	Create tender for proposed projects (consultant-led)
9	Execute project based on tender & contract terms

Beginning in 2027, Special Areas is planning one major paving project a year. Cost-sharing opportunities for projects on three-digit highways are being discussed with the Province; local road projects are expected to be fully funded by Special Areas.

Paving projects typically take between four to five years to plan, with warranty work and reclamation completed after the project is done. Paving projects will be planned based on the age and condition of current road structure, with projects planned to support competitive (less expensive) pricing.

The majority of planned paving projects are mid-way through project development. Work to complete exploration, permitting and approvals (*task 4*) was completed Q1 2026. As individual projects move closer to construction, field work & testing (*task 5*) and engineering / design work (*task 6*) are completed to support the project moving to tender (*task 8*).

2023 TAX RECOVERY LAND SALE UPDATE

The 2023 Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS IV) policy was approved in July 2023 and is in effect for three years for eligible leaseholders.

The policy expires on July 16, 2026. Applications must be received prior to this date to be eligible under this policy.

As of March, 313 applications representing over 175,000 acres have been received under this policy; 120 of these applications have been completed. Under the 2023 TRLS policy, a maximum of four quarter sections can be purchased per applicant.

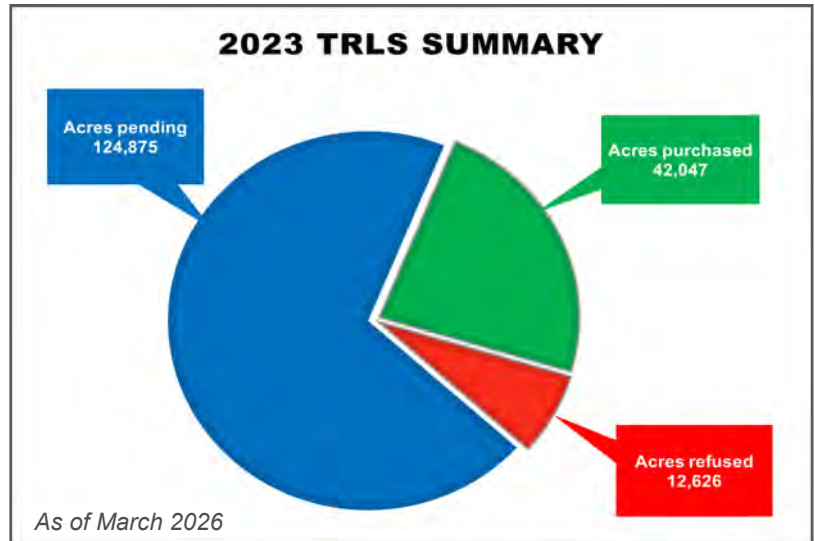


Scan to learn more

District Offices will continue to process applications after this deadline, including replacement quarters for refused lands and bonus quarters (through the voluntary exchange list).

We anticipate work to process applications received by the deadline and complete the 2023 TRLS will continue until at least 2028.

If you are interested in learning more about the TRLS policy, submitting an application, or obtaining a bonus quarter, contact your local District Office.



RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2025 Resident Satisfaction Survey! Your feedback helps Special Areas better understand what residents value and where improvements are needed.

Some highlights included:

- **83%** of respondents rated their quality of life **as high or very high**
- **78%** were **satisfied** with Special Areas services
- **Fire & Emergency Services** and **Water & Wastewater** received the highest satisfaction
- **Road Maintenance** and **Waste Management** were identified as key concerns

Survey participants identified several top priorities for Advisory Council to consider including road infrastructure, access to local healthcare, lowering municipal taxes, and strengthening local education opportunities. Residents also emphasized the need for better road maintenance, strong communication, and more opportunities to influence local decisions.

Share Your Thoughts in the 2026 Survey!

The 2026 Resident Satisfaction Survey is open and we want to hear from you. This short 10 minute survey helps shape the programs, services, and future developments across Special Areas.

The survey is anonymous and open until October.

Start the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2026_resident_survey

Results will be shared this fall on our website, social media, and at local District Offices so you can see how your input makes a difference.



Scan to take the survey

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

In late 2025, Jordon Christianson accepted a two year term position as the Director of Regional Initiatives for the Special Areas Board. Reporting to the Chair of the Special Areas Board, this position represents Special Areas on a number of key regional initiatives, including the MD of Acadia and Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project, economic development groups, and regional healthcare.

A key part of this work is collaborating with local partners like medical clinic boards to develop regional solutions to address challenges facing rural healthcare today: recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals, access to high quality local services, and ensuring local infrastructure meets community needs.

HANNA & DISTRICT MEDICAL CORPORATION



This organization includes representation from the Town of Hanna, Starland County and the Special Areas Board.

Advisory Councillor **Kevin Bossert** and **Jay Slemp (member at large)** represent Special Areas.

Key responsibilities:

- Operating the Hanna Medical Clinic
- Recruiting and retaining medical professionals
- Collaborating on regional recruitment & retention

BIG COUNTRY MEDICAL DENTAL BOARD (OYEN)

This Board includes representation from the Town of Oyen, M.D. of Acadia, and the Special Areas Board.

Advisory Councillors **Erika Tessier** and **Kevin Wilson** represent Special Areas.

Key responsibilities:

- Operating the Oyen Medical Dental Clinic
- Recruiting and retaining medical professionals
- Collaborating on regional recruitment & retention
- Managing rental housing for medical professionals



Sketch of new clinic

CONSORT & DISTRICT MEDICAL CENTRE SOCIETY



Future home of the Consort Health & Wellness Center

This organization includes representation from the Village of Consort and the Special Areas Board.

Advisory Councillors **Laurie Ference** and **Doug Noble** represent Special Areas.

Key responsibilities:

- Operating the Consort Medical Clinic
- Recruiting and retaining medical professionals
- Collaborating on regional recruitment & retention
- Managing rental housing for medical professionals

OYEN DEMENTIA / ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Construction of the new 14-bed dementia care and assisted living facility in Oyen, Alberta is now nearing completion. This important project is a partnership between the Special Areas Board, the Acadia Foundation, and Alberta Seniors and Housing. It builds on more than a decade of work, starting with the Oyen Seniors Taskforce, which identified a major shortage of dementia and assisted-living spaces in the region. Without this level of care close to home, many local residents had to move away from their families and communities to receive the support they needed.

In 2020, the provincial government committed approximately \$4 million to begin the project. Representatives from Alberta Seniors and Housing, the Acadia Foundation, and the Special Areas formed the project team. When initial construction bids came in higher than expected, the Acadia Foundation assumed management of the project, and Special Areas agreed to cover all remaining costs beyond the provincial contribution.

Construction started in 2024 on a single-storey, 14-bed facility connected to the existing Oyen Lodge. A fire at the construction site earlier this spring resulted in delays to the project; however, repairs are covered by insurance. The facility is expected to be finished later this year and open to residents this fall.

The total project cost is estimated at \$11.3 million, with the Province currently contributing \$4.8 million and Special Areas funding the rest.



South view of new facility (looking north)

MD ACADIA & SPECIAL AREAS JOINT IRRIGATION PROJECT

Phase 2 work on the regional irrigation project was completed in 2025, with a report on key findings delivered to project partners: Canada Infrastructure Bank, Government of Alberta, MD of Acadia, and the Special Areas Board. This report identified key decision information for project partners, and was designed to help support an investment decision for the next phase of the project.

Project partners invested \$7M to complete Phase 2 work:

- Engineering work including water availability, conceptual design of major components, power analysis, and initial cost estimating
- Engagement with First Nations, local producers, municipalities and other groups
- Environmental and regulatory considerations, financial analysis, and potential revenue generation

Next steps for this project include the creation of a Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) to take on responsibility for further project development and regulatory work.

Representatives from the MD of Acadia and the Special Areas Board would sit on the MCC, along with professional board members who have the necessary expertise developing large-scale irrigation and infrastructure projects.



Scan to learn more

ADVISORY COUNCIL INFORMATION

Special Areas Advisory Council members are elected in accordance with the *Local Authorities Elections Act*. The thirteen member Advisory Council supports effective local governance in the Special Areas and looks after the interests of the entire municipality. Advisory Councillors represent Special Areas on a number of external Boards & Committees; for more information on current appointments and representation, visit the [Board and Advisory page](#) at www.specialareas.ab.ca.

You can connect with your Advisory Councillor through email or by contacting your local District Office.



SA 2 - SD 1
Kevin Bossert



SA 2 - SD 2
Rod Moench



SA 2 - SD 3
Brad Slorstad



SA 2 - SD 4
Justin Griffith

Special Area No. 2



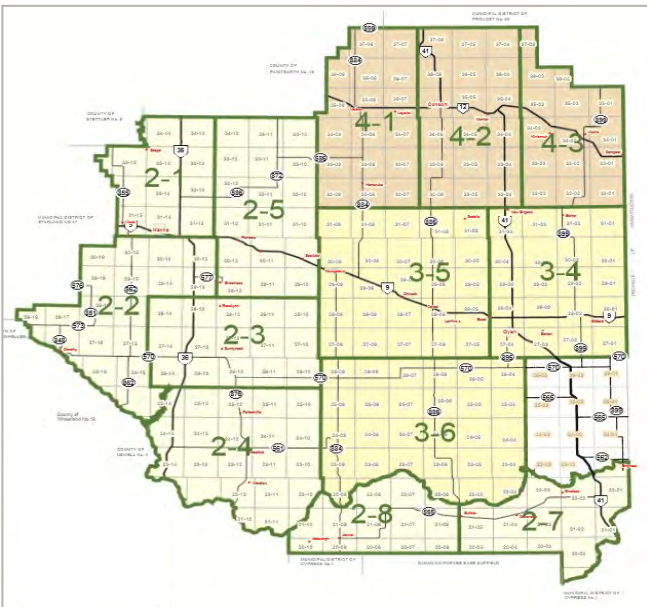
SA 2 - SD 5
Mark Blair



SA 2 - SD 7
Daryl Swenson



SA 2 - SD 8
Brad Osadczuk



SA 3 - SD 4
Erika Tessier



SA 3 - SD 5
John Kimber

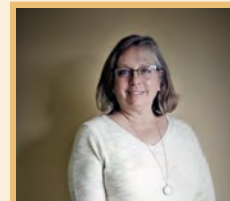


SA 3 - SD 6
Kevin Wilson

Special Area No. 3



SA 4 - SD 1
Gordon Long



SA 4 - SD 2
Laurie Ference



SA 4 - SD 3
Doug Noble

Special Area No. 4

Assessment Appeal Deadline

The 2026 assessment appeal deadline is **July 21, 2026**.

Any person who wishes to object to their assessment must register a complaint on the *Assessment Review Board Complaint Form* available online or at your local District Office.

We need your help!

Updating your contact information helps make sure you get the important documents and information you need.

Next time you contact your District Office, please let us know if we should update your mailing address or phone number.